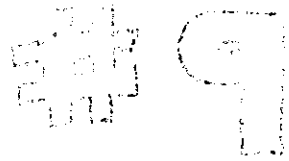
THE BEHOLDER



Well, two weeks off schedule this time, here I am with TB. Hey, to all the thank you's! What's matter? Don't you enjoy this zine?

Mark Berch once said that the most common opening phrase for a zine is "The zine is late because ...". Well, I see no reason not to follow a time-honoured hobby tradition, so I'll explain forthwith.

It all started out 31 Oct 79. I walked into the school office, and asked the secretary would anyone be around this Sunday, and could I use the ditto then? She directed me to the principal. I asked. He said, "No, and you can't use it anymore anyway."

"Why?"

"For one thing, it promotes the playing of wargames in class (he actually believes that!!), and also, we don't have enough supplies for the outsiders use it any more."

I saved my curses until I was out of earshot. Depressed and defeated I wandered aimlessly for the remainder of the lunch hour. After practice when I got home, I told my father what had happened. His response was totally unexpected; "Well, buy one!"

"Me, buy a ditto machine?"

"Sure, I'll loan you the money and you can pay me back gradually."

Which is what I am doing now. Teh school, I'll well, how I can tell them what to do with their ditto machine. Darn thing didn't give more than 70 decent copies anyway. I hope every one appreciates what I've gone through to keep this going. I don't die easy. And now, on to the colophon.

This is the November 5, 1979 (hah!) issue of The Beholder, a magazine devoted to the play of postal Diplomacy (which you can blame Allan Calhamer and Avalon Hill for), and published by John Kelley, Box 55, Kingston, WA 98628 USA. I am the gamemaster for all games herein, currently 1977 AG, 1978 E, MD, Zulu, 1979-CG, Bulette, and Cockatrice, which Bernadette apparently hasn't got to yet. Ah, no problem: she does a better job than the last one apparently did.

Game openings: in Doppleganger ($ 3.00 GF) and one in the blind game Hippogriff. After that, I will open games when either: a) a game ends, or b) I feel I can handle another.

Well, I'm putting revised houserules in this issue. Hope no one gripes.

Hey, do you want to play in a good, reliable game? Under a great and excellent GM? Send some bum to Lee Kendler, 4347 Larmer St., Philadelphia PA 19135, and ask to be placed in Game #12. Be sure to specifically tell him you want to play in a game with Buddy Tretick (under his [illegible] name).

Hey, not all of you have sent pictures?!!! Don't do it. I don't care if your face looks like someone beat you in an [illegible] fight. You couldn't be any less striking than your publisher. So send a picture!

Lessee, my standby last considers of Bussard, Van [illegible], [illegible], Chasek, Dunlay, Mickey, Kruhsel, Gibson, Kelly, and Hubbard.

Bill LaBonte told John Michaelsen that he's [illegible] waiting for the game than a year. Well, Bill, [illegible] or so to begin.

Haven't been [illegible] in a while. Wonder if [illegible] game I took were the only game that ever got [illegible] [illegible] I haven't [illegible]

[illegible] are [illegible]

[illegible] Winter 1906:
[illegible] (Jim [illegible] Ron Kelly): [illegible] F [illegible] Bas F Nth, F Nwg
[illegible] (Tracy Gaskren): [illegible] A [illegible] A [illegible]
F [illegible], A Bur, A Ruh, A Kie
[illegible] (Tracy as Guerrion): [illegible] A [illegible], [illegible] A Ven, F [illegible]
F [illegible]
Russia (F. Trevor Baillie) [illegible] F Nwg CTD, has F Swe, F Den, A [illegible]
Lvd.
Turkey (Randolph Smyth): [illegible] A Con, A Smy, Has A Con, A [illegible]
F Ion, F Tun, F Wes, F Lyo, A Pic, A Mun, A Sil, A Sev, A Bud, A [illegible]
F Tri.

Thus our claude was the original French player; Julian was a [illegible]ary substitute. Jensen NMRed and is replaced by Ron Kelly. Thank you Curt, for the un-needed standby orders. By the way, Ron, I asked off all standby lists because I don't have the time to play in too many games. I like being a standby, but....

Spring orders are on file from IRT. Claude's address is: 450 Ave Nelson, Ottawa, Ont. K1N 7S8. Also, you may not be aware that Francois had a COA to #2210-160 Chapel St, Ottawa, Ont. K1N 8P5.

1978-E, Winter 1906/Spring 1907: GM SICK AND TIRED OF WAITING FOR DEADBEADS TO RESPOND, SO DOES SEASON!!
Winter 1906: England even; Germany Even; Italy Ret A Boh-Vie, builds A Ven; Russia NBR, one short; Turkey builds A Ank.
Spring 1907:
England (Robert Acheson): F Nwg-NAt, F Cly S F Nwg/moving, A Edi-Lpl.
Germany (~~[illegible]~~) NMR! A's Kie, Bel, F's Hol, Den, Lon all H.
Italy (Blair Cusack): ((Deep breath..)) F NAt-Lpl, A Bre-Lon, F Eng C A Bre-Lon, F Lpl-Cly, A Bur-Bel, A Pic S A Bur-Bel, F Wal S A Bre-Lon, A Vie-Gal, A Bud S A Vie-Gal, A Ven-Tri, F Ion-Gre, A Ser S F Ion-Gre, A Con H, F Bul(sc) S A Con, A Tyo-Vie, A Ruh-Hol.
Russia (~~[illegible]~~): NMR! A's Gre, Boh, Mx Mun, Gal, Rum, Fs Bla, Ska all H.
Turkey (Barry C. Hickey): A Smy-Con, A Ank S A Smy-Con.

The dislodged Russian and German units, holding as per CD rules in the Rulebook, are annihilated. Would John Masters, 25711 N. Vista Fairways Dr., Valencia, CA 91355 please take over Russia? Also, could Tony Watson, [illegible] take over Germany? Thanks, guys.
1881 S. Pala, #207, Las Vegas, NV 89104

1978-HD, Fall 1905: I WOULD APPRECAITE IF YOU ALL WOULD SIMPLY SEND ORDERS AND NOT GRIPE.
AUstria (Jim Lynch): F Ion-Tyn, A Boh S ITALIAN A Tyo-Mun/nso, A Alb H, A Sil S TURKISH A Pru-Ber/nso/, A Vie S A Boh, A War S A Sil/d/(ret-Ukr, Gal or OTB), F Tyh-Nes.
France (Tom Mirti): [illegible] A Bur-Mar, F Lyo-Mar, F Mid-Nes, F [illegible]-Tun, A Mar-Gas, F Eng-Bel, A Yor-Hol, F Nth C A Yor-Hol.
Germany (Jerry Jones?) NMR! A's Mun, Ruh, Kie, Ber, F's Nwy, Swe all H.
Italy (Randolph Smyth): F Tus-Rom, A Pie H, A Tyo S A Pie, F Tun S AUSTRIAN F Tyh-Nes.
Turkey (Tom Thornsen): A Fin-StP, A Lva-War, A Mos S A Lva-War, A Pru S A Lva-War, A Sev-Rum, F Bla S A Sev-Rum, F Aeg-Gre.

Would Blair Cusack, 1620-42nd ST SW, Calgary, Alta T3C 1Z5 please standby for Germany? Thanks, Blair. Centre chart and press on next page.

[illegible]

[illegible] Sorry for all the typos in that last bit. [illegible]

[illegible]-All: To clear up any confusion, my address is 41 [illegible] not [illegible]

[illegible] Flower: Huh? Did I foul up anything? If I did I'm sorry. [illegible] had [illegible] stepping outside the press section, I have something important to say. Jim protested my re-instatement of Jerry. He said "Jerry Jones [illegible] did not make the Brouhaha deadline...." The hock he didn't. Bob [illegible] filed the orders, and didn't send Jerry a copy of the adjudice, so [illegible] not too late to fix things. I have repeatedly asked Lou if he [illegible] B sub money Bob sent me back and have heard nothing. I have bent over [illegible] wards to get this game going, and all I get is molten lava poured upon my head. Jim, if you realized what a protest does to me, you'd have thought again. First of all, it renders me ineffective in schoolwork for the afternoon (I get depressed; I'm not a computer, I'm a person, with feelings). Second, I nearly fold the game. Every time it happens I nearly fold. Because it doesn't seem worth it. I even broke down on one occasion, and I cannot take the mental strain. (In that sentence 'breaking down' is not a nervous or mental breakdown (although that could happen), but simply crying.) I am not ashamed to admit it, if it will make you think a little before you villify me. I have been known to forgive, but I never forget. I can only take protests that are worded amiably, and in a spirit of friendliness. If you think now that I am too immature to handle GMing, you are wrong. I never developed a hard skin like most GMs who can shrug things like this off; when I get a letter grilling my ethics it cuts like a razor. So have a heart; and realize that I do too.

1979-CC, Spring 1902: THE FAT'S REALLY IN THE FIRE NOW! SCABS, WIPEOUTS.. Fun, fun, fun!!

Austria(Mick Russon): A Vie S A Bud, A Bud S A Vie, A Ber-Run, F Gre-Bul.
England(Jerry Van Alkemade): F Lpl-Iri, F Lon-Eng, F Nwy-Swe, F Nth-Hwy, A Bel-Pic.
France(Clive Tonge): A Par-Bur, A Mar S A Par-Bur, A Spa-Gas, A Pic S ENGLISH A Bel, F Por-Mid.
Germany(Markus Rentig): A Den S ENGLISH F Hwy-Swe, A Ber-Sil, A Mun S A Ruh-Bur, A Ruh-Bur, F Hol-Kie.
Italy(Francois Guerrier): A Tri-Ser, A Ven-Tri, A Rye S A Ven-Tri, F Tun S F Nap-Ion, F Nap-Ion.
Russia (Trevor Baillie): F Sev(nc)-Bla, F Swe-Nwy/d/ret-Fin, Bot, Bal, OTB, A Gal-Boh, A War-Gal, F Nwy H, A Sev S F Nwy/d/ret-Mos, Mur, OTB.
Turkey(Bob Q. Albrecht): A Arm-Sev, A Bul S ITALIAN A Ion-Ser, F Con Aeg, F Bla S A Arm-Sev.

[illegible]

[illegible] JOHN BULL [illegible]

[illegible] announced at a [illegible] Majesty's Government's [illegible] diligently for peace and [illegible] on the Continent. [illegible] Government has responded favorably ((hey! [illegible]) [illegible] from [illegible], Vienna and Constantinople, and has ordered the [illegible] Army Corps, the Liverpool Lilies to be [illegible] so as to protect the country against Israeli [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] is expected to reach Paris shortly, after a forced march of [illegible] miles, and there will board the famous Orion. Express for Constantinople. [illegible] Majesty's Government gratefully acknowledges the unlimited cooperation received from the French Government as well as the support given it by the German High Command and the facilities promised to it by the Italians and the Hungarian and Turkish Governments, to assure this modern [illegible] made prompt and unhindered passage.

Meanwhile, to further strengthen Brittania's Divine Mission to rule the waves, new fleets, outfitted over the Winter season in London and Liverpool, have gone to sea to prevent entry into European waters by Confederate blockade runners, who have been at sea so long that they still are not aware that the American civil war ended 38 years ago. This new task for the Royal Navy was assumed under the now famous James Doctrine, which holds: "Europe for the British".

Racing to Whom it may concern: Affairs of worldly business will take me away from home and hearth, out of town, county, state and country for the period form November 5 through 20. All diplomatic correspondence received here during that time will be held for my return and will then be answered, insofar as it will not be ignored. For the possible curious among you, my itinerary is: Zurich (someone owes the company money there), Athens (my colleagues there are in some kind of trouble), Cairo (somebody wants lots of credit), Tripoli (tentative - I'm having trouble getting a visa for this hospitable land), Algiers (they don't like to pay their bills), Amsterdam (family reunion), and London (for the benefit of some Libyans who would rather meet there than in Benghazi - which I definitely do not hold against them).

SPECIAL from London to Berlin: (cc. Klickitat): HAPPY THANKSGIVING.

SPECIAL to all Canadians: Ha, ha, ha!

U.P.I.-Marseilles-General William Plante has Recieved charge of a second army from Marseille. "The General has been given charge [illegible] of the army for two reasons", stated President Tonge. "Firstly Plante saved Burgundy ans secondly, under his command, the Marseille army stopped the civil disorder in Spain."

Reuters: Persident Tonge seems extremely pleased with the gift from Sultan Albrecht. The 50 dancing girls have been the talk of Paris. Predident Tonge's amourous advantures seemed to have tapered this year. It is thought to be due to his ills of a year ago.

Paris-Budapest: No!! I will not attack the Italians because they took Trieste. Would you please stop sending spys especially those that don't speak French.

Paris-Ankara: "Thanks for the beautifuls."

Ankara-Berlin: Beware of Frenchmen bearing Trojan hordes! Sieg Heil!

Ankara-Vienna: Wanna bet?

Ankara-World: Ankara votes yes on I-T draw.

[illegible] guilty) by the Canadian Diplomatic Organization [illegible] Committee, the floodgates are thrown open, and you [illegible] penalty the GM imposes.

[illegible] Only one person may play any one power at any one time. [illegible] temporary subs with the stipulation that BEFORE the sub takes over [illegible] original player must list the dates on which the sub will be in [illegible] his play of the country. These will be rigidly adhered to. [illegible] players to play under false names, unless they both tell me [illegible] permission, and Buddy Trotick and all his fronts (if I find that [illegible] the best of my knowledge, is a Trotick pseudonym, he will be [illegible] within the hour) are totally barred from MFP.

[illegible] GRANDMASTERS. I will not take responsibility for the actions [illegible] in MFP. They stand alone. I may, however, restrict the [illegible] (ie. trying to allow the Coastal Creep).

[illegible] COUNTRY ASSIGNMENT. Positions are assigned by random drawing [illegible] To play in MFP, you must a) pay the gamefee and b) [illegible] throughout the game. If a deadline ever passes [illegible] through in your subscription account to pay for the next [illegible] out) you will be replaced.

[illegible] SEASONS. There are 5 game seasons: Spring moves, Summer retreats, [illegible] moves, Autumn retreats, and Winter adjustments. Usually these are combined into Autumn/Winter/Spring and Summer/Fall, except in 1901, where Winter [illegible] often be separate.

[illegible] ORDERS. These must be typed or printed, on one side of the paper only, [illegible] paper being no smaller either direction than 3" by 5", and rectangular. They must include signature, date written, game id, country, and season(s). I will not be lenient-if I get orders without the season, they will be thrown away, as an example. (The aforesaid case being an example; don't pervert that sentence to say "making an example of the player") Orders for different games must be on separate sheets.

(7a) Joint orders, contingency orders, codewords, perpetual orders are all illegal. Support and convoy orders involving foreign units must specify the nationality of the unit being supported or convoyed, else the order will be read as an NSU/Holds.

8) CONDITIONAL ORDERS. If two seasons are taken together, players may write conditional orders on results in EARLIER seasons. If none of the specified conditions occur, all units will be considered unordered and will hold as per CD rules (as do all unordered units). If a standby is called, one may not make his orders conditional on who gets the position.

[illegible] PRESS. First, no profanity, period. The editor has the right to throw out any press he wishes, for whatever reasons he wishes. If press [illegible]

[illegible] press is allowed, but no player may write more than [illegible] of BP per game, per [illegible]. Your BP allotment [illegible] from game to game.

[illegible] The deadlines within [illegible] are [illegible] stating the GM will be ignored, and it will [illegible] the allotment.

[illegible] OF THE GM. [illegible] the idiot [illegible] book his HD's [illegible] insubordinate [illegible] hope wink [illegible] give me your phone [illegible] a time to reach you, and [illegible] collect, although [illegible] always able to do this.

[illegible] I will not accept [illegible] orders. Phantom moves will [illegible] for Spring 1901. They are [illegible]

Austria: A Vie-Gal, Tyo or Tri to repel attacks by Italy, Germany, or Russia, (if two or more areas are invaded A Vie will H) A Bud-Ser, [illegible] Pic-Bel.

England: A Lpl-Edi, F Edi-Nwg, F Lon-Eng if France does F Bre-Eng, otherwise -Nth.

France: A Par-Pic, A Mar-Bur if Germany goes [illegible] Mun-Bur, otherwise [illegible] Eng to repel English F Lon-Eng, otherwise -Nth.

Germany: F Kie-Hol, A Ber-Sil or Pru to standoff Russian A War, Otherwise Kie, A Mun-Ruh.

Italy: A Ven-Pie to repel French A Mar-Pie, otherwise H, A Rom-Apu, F Nap-Ion.

Russia: F StP(sc)-Bot, F Sev-Bla to standoff Turkish F Ank-Bla, otherwise [illegible] Rum, A War H, A Mos-Ukr.

Turkey: F Ank-Bla if Russia goes F Sev-Bla, Arm is F Sev-Arm, otherwise [illegible], A Con-Bul, A Smy-Con.

e) units unordered (by NMR or oversight) will be in temporary CD and if dislodged may not retreat.

13) PICKED ORDERS. These are due by 11:00 p.m., PST/PDT, the day before the printed deadline date. I won't accept orders one minute late. Give orders to no one but me; if I find you've made a member of my family take down your orders, you will get it, but good.

14) STANDBYS. I keep a list of replacement players, who must keep up a sub to TB and must submit orders for any spot I request them for, no matter how good or bad. Standbys get .50 sub credit for answering the call, but be sure and remind me of it. It's easy to forget. The only time CD exists in MFP is when units are unordered or NMRed; those units temporarily hold in CD, until a player is there to move them. Dropout's accounts are confiscated, but those who send a final set of orders along with a resignation incur no penalty for it.

15) DEADLINES. At this writing, deadlines are set four weeks apart normally. The deadline passes at the instant the last piece of mail skids to a stop against the door of Box 35.

16) DECEPTION OF THE GM. The book will be hurled, hard, at anyone who attempts to deceive the GM.

17) IMPOSSIBLE AND PROPAGANDA ORDERS (AND BADLY WRITTEN ONES): Impossible orders fail. Propaganda orders are ok if a specific direction is specified. Badly written orders will be followed if possible, otherwise

The Beholder

Do these look familiar to you, Konrad? They should. I used the for-
mat you used (that Rod Walker apparently used).

Speaking of Rod, this is a good enough space to print

1979-Cockatrice, Spring 1901:

Austria (Trevor Baillie): A Vie-Tyo, A Bud-Ser, F Tri-Alb.
England (Dave Grabar): F Edi-Pwg, F Lon-Nth, A Lpl-Edi.
France (Don Brown): A Par-Bur, A Mar S A Par-Bur, F Bre-Mid.
Germany (Andy Lischett): F Kie-Den, A Ber-Pru, A Mun-Sil.
Italy (John Michalski): A Ven-Tyo, A Rom-Apu, F Nap-Ion.
Russia (Steve Colombo): F Sev-Bla, A War-Ukr, A Mos H, F StP(sc)-Fin.
Turkey (Fred G. Hyatt): A Con-Bul, F Ank-Bla, A Smy-Arm.

Some of the wittier press releases were:
Venice-Mark Berch: How often does Italy open with this one, Mark?
Mark Berch: Whenever there's a Polish pope.

And as a bonus, you get

ANALYSIS

The Cockatrice Game, 1979??

Rod Walker

Spring 1901: If the rest of the game is as well-played as this season, we are in for an exciting time! That doesn't mean some people didn't get outguessed. But that's inevitable in this game. What did happen, from the evidence of the orders, was that a lot of pre-season negotiating and some very thoughtful preparation went into the moves ((JK here: I mistyped a little bit there. That should say 'of moves'.)). There isn't a careless or stupid move in the bunch...including Russia's F StP(sc)-Fin. As we will see. I'm going to analyze the orders by country this time.

Austria. Austria is allied with Italy, that much is clear. The attack on Tyrolia was prearranged and leaves A Vie beautifully poised to defend against a possible Russian attack, without the necessity of moving to Trieste in case Italy attacked. Of course, Austria chanced an Italian stab. But it's worth it because the Austro-Italian alliance can be one of the most devastating on the board. The Target is Turkey.

England. The English orders allow the maximum of flexibility. Note

that the F Bal can be convoyed to Bay (while F Lon can still attack something else. You can't do that with A Lon. Bal is generally considered to be an anti-Russ in opening. But consider: F Den-Swe, A Bal-Mos, F Bth C A Bal-Bal. Russia cannot stop this. Russia's options are wide open, which is exactly where England wants to be at this point.

France. In many ways this is France's best opening. However, it has one disadvantage. In order to take all of Russia next season, he must put the fleet in Portugal. That's awkward if he wants to mount a naval attack on the Med. Again, however, his options are otherwise wide open. He threatens A Bur-Mun, and has an almost sure thing in A Bur-Bel (only England could stop him, and why would England do that?).

Germany. Putting all your eggs in one basket is not always wise. In this game, Germany has obviously made strong overtures to Russia, and has now mounted a massive attack. For what? He can keep Russia out of Sweden, but he does not have a lock on Warsaw. Even to mount a supported attack, he must risk losing Munich. And he has abandoned the Bol/Bel complex to England and France...who are obviously getting along very well. So he has Russia mad at him and is wide open in the rear. Long-range prediction: Scratch Germany.

Italy. See Austria, above. The bounce in Tyrolia is a put-on, and the harbinger of much cooperation between Rome and Vienna. The rest of Italy's opening is standard Lepanto. Turkey had better look to his back door.

Russia. The move F StP(sc)-Fin is usually considered weak. And it is. But I suspect it was done here to avoid antagonizing Germany. Tough luck, tovarich! Strong play and good diplomacy can still redeem this situation, particularly as Germany has just opened the flood gates on the Siegfried Line.

Turkey. Obviously anti-Russian, and with a Lepanto attack coming up, that's not good. Luckily, Russia appears in a situation where she will be all to glad to make peace. If a Russo-Turkish alliance appears, I predict the eastern front will stalemate and the other Wicked Witch, and her friend, will come down like a wolf on the fold.

((Well, everyone, what do you think? I consider this to be probably the future highlight of this zine, and if Rod keeps up with perceptive and well-thought insights like these (and I suspect he will), we'll all get a kick out of them.))

And, I'm no piker. I will be typing up replays of 1979-E, John Michalski's first ten-day-deadline game, with my commentary. My thanks to John, who as usual bent over backwards to help.

Well, I just got a letter from 'Brian Edwards' (ringer for Trotick, in case you came in late), and a stamp. He whats a sample. After subduing my laughter, I decided: Why pass this chance up? Therefore, I'm going to run a contest about it. $1.00 US to the best response submitted by a subscriber (if I use it), with the following limitations:

1) Put it on a sheet of paper separate from any other material, so I can send it in intact.
2) No profanity, but I might not object to putting my name to a couple of so clever insults.
3) DON'T sign it. Remember, you are writing this for me, under my name.
4) Explain to him why his offer is refused. I f you try to KEP him subscribe, your entry will be ignored, don't try it. This offer is open to traders too (you'll get a buck in the mail).

A kwik note. Anyone who was supposed to be sent a variant might as well forget it. My files are a disaster, and I seem to have lost Pandemonium altogether. Darn. I worked mighty hard making the map look good (used four sheets!).

[illegible] this issue to late [illegible] that, [illegible] and [illegible], I [illegible] the [illegible], [illegible] should be [illegible], not because I [illegible] it, [illegible] just this [illegible]. I just might [illegible] in a [illegible] get the final [illegible], but we'll see. I'm sorry for the [illegible], but what with the playoffs, getting my [illegible] and learning to use it, and [illegible] other things, it got [illegible] in the shuffle.

My mom will get back from The Dalles with that mimeo paper (the paper Weeks gave me prints [illegible] terribly; see page one) in a couple hours and I'll be running this off. One good thing: I think that the darkness of repro will get better now, as I can get more than 100 readable copies from this thing. Also, I'm starting my own little printer's shop, and even in Klickitat there's quite a market for printing, and Kitto is ideal.

Well, I finally acquired that mimeo paper, and after seeing how awful the repro is with it, I wonder why I didn't stick with regualr paper. Of course, this is a prime example of the joy of publishing. Now of course any of my readership, too lazy to answer my evaluation poll, will squall about the repro. DON'T say anything! If you think I'm unaware of it already, and not trying to do anything about it, you possess certain hard substances between the ears.

Deadline for all games (except Cockatrice) is 15 December 1979!

DO SVIDANIA!!

Your sub credit: Cockatrice
Trade
Code # D-24
Please standby on page _____
Sample_____

PS. Bob Albrecht, K wasn't printed because it was too long. I said TWO typed pages, no more!

The Rampider #9
John Kelley
Box 39
Klickitat, WA 98628
United States of America

PLEASE HAND MAIL - DO NOT FOLD, SPINDLE OR MUTILATE